

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re application of : Confirmation No. 9236
Sandhya MISHRA et al. : Docket No. 2001-0120A
Serial No. 09/777,664 : Group Art Unit 1651
Filed February 7, 2001 : Examiner I. Marx

AN IMPROVED PROCESS FOR THE
REMOVAL OF CALCIUM IONS FROM THE
BRINE BY MARINE CYANOBACTERIA :

RESPONSE

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action of June 28, 2002 (the time for responding thereto being extended for one month in accordance with a Petition for Extension of Time submitted herewith), constituting a requirement for restriction between (I) claim 1 and (II) claims 2-20, Applicants hereby elect the subject matter of claims 2-20, with traverse.

Applicants emphasize that this election is made while reserving their rights under 35 U.S.C. §121 to file a divisional application for the non-elected subject matter of claim 1.

Action on the merits of the elected subject matter is requested.

CLARIFICATION

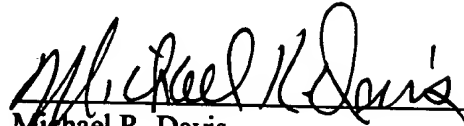
The Office Action Summary page of the Office Action indicates that the Action is final. Since

the Office Action constitutes a requirement for restriction, and no action on the merits has yet been received, it is assumed that designating the Action final was inadvertent.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandhya MISHRA et al.

By:



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August 28, 2002